Talkgroup Aliases

Section II (a)(i)

Policies

(a) Agencies may choose to implement talkgroup aliases as an option.

(b) If radio aliases are desired, use the format **CCAAAATTTT** where:

CC is a two digit **COUNTY** identifier as shown in section (4)(a). State agencies do not require this identifier.

AAAA is a two to four character (alphanumeric) **AGENCY** identifier as shown in section (4)(a).

TTTT is a variable length alphanumeric **TALKGROUP** identifier. This can be any length that an agency desires, but for readability in a variety of radios, IPSC suggests that the identifier be the minimum length necessary, e.g., 3 or 4 characters.

If desired, the underscore character may be used throughout to increase readability, e.g., CC_AAAA_TTTT.

(c) The agency identifier, when combined with the county identifier, must be unique throughout the system. Agencies choosing to join the system will be asked to select a one to four character identifier. Selected identifiers will be compared to existing identifiers to ensure against duplication.

(d) To avoid confusion, use the exact same talkgroup alias in the User Configuration Subsystem, dispatch consoles and user radios.

(e) Abbreviate aliases only when absolutely necessary.

1) Background

A "Talkgroup" is a resource on the system that permits a group of users to communicate with one another. Each talkgroup on the system is assigned a 6-digit talkgroup number (ID) when it is created. If talkgroups are assigned an alias, the talkgroup alias will be displayed on wireline consoles instead of the talkgroup ID. Although talkgroup aliases can be time consuming and cumbersome to administer, IPSC has developed these policies for managing talkgroup aliases.

2) Capabilities

(a) Talkgroup IDs are 6-digit numbers that range from 800000 to 804096.

(b) Talkgroup IDs are unique; Talkgroup aliases for the same talkgroup ID may be different!

(c) Talkgroup aliases exist in three separate locations:

    i) User Configuration Subsystem (UCS)/Smartzone Manager terminal
    ii) Dispatch Consoles (via Console Database Manager or CDM)
    iii) Radios (via Radio Service Software or RSS)

(d) Different aliases for the same Talkgroup ID can exist in the System Manager, Dispatch console and radios.

(e) User radios may have different aliases for the same talkgroup ID.

3) Constraints

(a) Programming of aliases is an agency responsibility and will require a manager terminal with the capability of adding mobiles and portable configurations to the system.

(b) User radios have limited display capabilities. Examples are:

		Analog		Digital	
Mobile	LCS 2000	No Aliases	Spectra W3	11 characters
	MCS 2000 Model 1	8 Characters	Spectra W7	8 characters
	MCS 2000 Model 2	14 Characters	Spectra W9	11 characters
	MCS 2000 Model 3	14 Characters		
t a	LTS 2000	No Aliases	XTS 3000 Model 1	No aliases

MTS 2000 Model 1	6 Characters	XTS 3000 Model 2	14 characters
MTS 2000 Model 2	14 Characters	XTS 3000 Model 3	14 characters
MTS 2000 Model 3	14 Characters		

4) **Recommendations**

(a) In order to facilitate interoperability and eliminate duplication of talkgroup aliases, agencies should use a two to three character prefix for each of their talkgroups. This will easily allow an agency to recognize another agency's talkgroups. For local government agencies residing within a county, including city agencies, IPSC requires that each of the talkgroup aliases begin with the corresponding numerical county identifier shown below:

Indiana Counties

1. Adams
2. Allen
3. Bartholomew
4. Benton
5. Blackford
6. Boone
7. Brown
8. Carroll
9. Cass
10. Clark
11. Clay
12. Clinton
13. Crawford
14. Daviess
15. Dearborn
16. Decatur

17. Dekalb
18. Delaware
19. Dubois
20. Elkhart
21. Fayette
22. Floyd
23. Fountain
24. Franklin
25. Fulton
26. Gibson
27. Grant
28. Greene
29. Hamilton
30. Hancock
31. Harrison
32. Hendricks

33. Henry
34. Howard
35. Huntington
36. Jackson
37. Jasper
38. Jay
39. Jefferson
40. Jennings
41. Johnson
42. Knox
43. Kosciusko
44. LaGrange
45. Lake
46. LaPorte
47. Lawrence
48. Madison

49. Marion
50. Marshall
51. Martin
52. Miami
53. Monroe
54. Montgomery
55. Morgan
56. Newton
57. Noble
58. Ohio
59. Orange
60. Owen
61. Parke
62. Perry
63. Pike
64. Porter

65. Posey	72. Scott	79. Tippecanoe	86. Warren
66. Pulaski	73. Shelby	80. Tipton	87. Warrick
67. Putnam	74. Spencer	81. Union	88. Washington
68. Randolph	75. Starke	82. Vanderburgh	89. Wayne
69. Ripley	76. Steuben	83. Vermillon	90. Wells
70. Rush	77. Sullivan	84. Vigo	91. White
71. St. Joseph	78. Switzerland	85. Wabash	92. Whitley

Using this convention, examples of talkgroup aliases for city and county agencies are:

41GF_Disp   Greenwood Fire Department dispatch talkgroup
41S_Admin   Johnson County Sheriff's Office administrative talkgroup
54CP_Ptrl   Crawfordsville Police Department patrol talkgroup

Examples of state and federal agency talkgroup prefixes are:

State Agencies

ABC	Alcoholic Beverage Commission	DOR	Department of Revenue
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms	DOT	Indiana Department of Transportation
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration	FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
DEM	Department of Environmental Management	ISP	Indiana State Police
DNR	Department of Natural Resources	NG	Indiana National Guard
DOA	Indiana Department of Administration	SEM	State Emergency Management Agency
DOC	Department of Correction		

Using this convention, examples of talkgroup aliases for state and federal agencies could be:

DNR_8Dist   Indiana Department of Natural Resources District 8 intra-district talkgroup

        DOT_FW2RC   Indiana Department of Transportation Fort Wayne District Road Crew 2 talkgroup
        FBI_Ops   Federal Bureau of Investigation operations talkgroup

(b)   Select user radios that are capable of displaying the full name of the talkgroup alias desired.

(c)   If selecting a variety of user radios, some of which may have limited displays, put unique identifying information at the beginning of the talkgroup alias.

    i)   In an eight-character display, "DNR_8Dist" and "DNR_9Dist" will become "DNR_8Dis" and "DNR_9Dis", respectively.

    ii)   In an eight character display, "DNR_Dist8" and "DNR_Dist9" will both become "DNR_Dist"

(d)   If a user has more than one radio, e.g., both mobile and portable radios, the radio aliases must be different for each radio.